

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PEKING 00837 290709Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 /086 W
-----019233 290850Z /16
R 290415Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0254
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 0837

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON CH
SUBJ: TIENTSIN REOPENED TO FOREIGNERS

1. SUMMARY. USLO OFFICERS HAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT TIENTSIN RECENTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE JULY 1976 EARTHQUAKE. WIDESPREAD DAMAGE IS STILL APPARENT, BUT EXTENSIVE RECONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERWAY, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NEW APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION. A LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS AIRING VARIOUS PERSONAL GRIEVANCES WERE OBSERVED. IN TWO FACTORIES VISITED, THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES WERE STILL FUNCTIONING AND THE BONUS-PIECE RATE SYSTEM HAD NOT YET BEEN INSTALLED. END SUMMARY.

2. TIENTSIN HAS RECENTLY BEEN REOPENED TO FOREIGN VISITORS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE DEVASTATING JULY 1976 EARTHQUAKE. USLO OFFICER SPENT A DAY IN THE CITY MARCH 24 (OVERNIGHT STAYS ARE STILL NOT PERMITTED), OUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT - OTHER THAN TRANSITS - SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE.

3. PEKING-TIENTSIN. THE ROAD, HARD-SURFACED AND IN GOOD CONDITION, TRAVERSES A FLAT COASTAL PLAIN. THERE IS EXTENSIVE VEGETABLE FARMING AROUND BOTH CITIES. MUCH OF THE VEGABLES ARE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PEKING 00837 290709Z

GROWN IN LONG EARTHEN AND PLASTIC COVERED GREENHOUSES AND MANY OF THESE ARE HEATED. THE AREA BETWEEN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TWO CITIES WAS PLANTED ABOUT 50 PERCENT TO WINTER WHEAT, WHICH SHOWED APPROX 1-2 INCHES OF GROWTH AND APPEARED IN GOOD CONDITION. MOST OF THE REMAINDER OF THE LAND WAS BEING PREPARED FOR SPRING PLANTING (LEVELING, PLOWING, FERTILIZER APPLICATION, ETC.).
ALTHOUGH USLO OFFICERS SAW NUMEROUS LARGE TRACTORS ON THE

ROAD, THEY WERE BEING USED FOR HAULING WAGONS; ALMOST ALL OPERATIONS OBSERVED IN THE FIELDS WERE BY HAND OR -- OCCASIONALLY DRAFT ANIMAL. IN ONE SMALL TOWN ABOUT 15 MILES FROM TIENTSIN, A LIVELY RURAL FREE MARKET WAS IN PROGRESS, WITH FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDING LIVE ANIMALS AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS SUCH AS BASKETS BEING SOLD. ON THE DOUBLE-TRACKED RAIL LINE BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES ALTSHOLM (FRENCH) DIESELS WERE BEING USED FOR FREIGHT OPERATIONS. ON THE RETURN TRIP, USLO OFFICERS PASSED TWO LARGE, NEW LOOKING, JAPANESE MANUFACTURED TRACTOR-TRAILERS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR HAULING TWO CONTAINERS. THE CONTAINERS, ALSO NEW-LOOKING, HAD MITSUI LINE MARKINGS. EVIDENTLY, SOME CONTAINER HANDLING CAPACITY IS AVAILABLE IN HSINKANG.

3. TIENTSIN -- GENERAL IMPRESSIONS. A CITY OF THREE-FOUR MILLION (TIENTSIN MUNICIPALITY HAS APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILLION), TIENTSIN HAS THE SCRUFFY, DRAB APPEARANCE TYPICAL OF MODERN INDUSTRIALIZED CHINA. A GREAT DEAL OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS FROM THE 1976 EARTHQUAKE WAS STILL IN EVIDENCE, ALTHOUGH FEW AREAS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY LEVELED. THE DAMAGE APPEARED IN POCKETS, SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THE CENTRAL FORMER FOREIGN CONCESSION AREA HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF HEAVY, IMPOSING BUILDINGS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL STYLES, MOST OF WHICH WERE STILL INTACT. DAMAGE IN THE HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED NORTHWESTERN SUBURBS SEEMED SOMEWHAT LESS THAN DOWNTOWN. RECONSTRUCTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PEKING 00837 290709Z

ACTIVITIES WERE IN PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. MOST OF THE TEMPORARY EARTHQUAKE SHELTERS WERE STILL BEING OCCUPIED, BUT SOME WERE BEING REMOVED; THE CTS GUIDE SAID ALL WOULD BE TAKEN DOWN SOON. USLO OFFICERS OBSERVED AT LEAST TWO DOZEN NEW APARTMENT BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. A LARGE NEW DEPARTMENT STORE IS BEING BUILT. THE AVAILABILITY AND VARIETY OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES (EXCEPT FOR CABBAGE) SEEMED LESS THAN PEKING AND THE PEOPLE APPEARED, IN GENERAL, SOMEWHAT POORER THAN IN THE CAPITAL CITY. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF BICYCLES PER CAPITA SEEMED COMPARABLE, PERHAPS BECAUSE TIENTSIN HAS A LARGE BICYCLE FACTORY. THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS, PARTICULARLY ACROSS FROM THE MUNICIPAL RC HEADQUARTERS, MOST OF WHICH WERE AIRING VARIOUS PERSONAL BRIEVANCES AND BORE MID-MARCH DATES. POSTERS WELCOMING THE FIFTH NPC WERE STILL UP, BUT BEGINNING TO FADE. THE NUMBER OF PLA TROOPS ON THE STREET WAS FAR FEWER THAN PEKING. (DETAILS ON POSTERS REPORTED PEKING A-37.)

4. FACTORIES. USLO OFFICERS VISITED A LARGE WATCH FACTORY (1.3 MILLION WATCHES LAST YEAR) AND A TRACTOR ASSEMBLY PLANT -- ALSO LARGE -- WITH AN OUTPUT OF 2270 TWENTY HOURSEPOWER UNITS IN

1977. THE TRACTOR PLANT SEEMED WELL ABOVE AVERAGE BY CHINESE STANDARDS. MANAGEMENT WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ARTICULATE, THE WORK PACE RELATIVELY BRISK (THERE WERE FEW WORKERS STANDING AROUND AS IS FREQUENTLY THE CASE), AND THE ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS SEEMED RATIONALLY ORGANIZED. AT LEAST 30 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS WERE YOUNG WOMEN. ALL THE MACHINERY OBSERVED WAS OF CHINESE MANUFACTURE, EXCEPT FOR TWO MODERN-LOOKING EAST GERMAN GEAR CUTTING MACHINES USED FOR MANUFACTURING TRANSMISSIONS. IN BOTH FACTORIES, ACCORDING TO THE MANAGERS, THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES WERE STILL FUNCTIONING AND THE BONUS-PIECE RATE SYSTEM HAD NOT BEEN INTRODUCED. (DETAILS OF THESE FACTORIES WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPARATE AIRGRAMS.)

5. TOURISM. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE TIENTSIN CHINA SERVICE BRANCH HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PEKING 00837 290709Z

30 ENGLISH SPEAKING INTERPRETER-GUIDES AND 30 JAPANESE LANGUAGE. DURING THE PERIOD AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE THE GUIDES WERE SENT TO OTHER CHINESE CITIES (PEKING, WUSHAN, SHANGHAI, CANTON) FOR TEMPORARY DUTY OF ONE TO THREE MONTHS. THERE IS LITTLE OF HISTORIC OR SCENIC INTEREST IN THE CITY. HOWEVER, THE FRIENDSHIP STORE HAS BEEN REOPENED WHICH SELLS RATHER ORDINARY-LOOKING SCROLLS AND PORCELAIN ARTICLES. A RUG FACTORY IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE OPEN. A NEW EIGHT-STORY HOTEL IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN AN AREA OF THE CITY WHICH RECEIVED HEAVY EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE; IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OPENED THIS SUMMER. THE EXISTING HOTELS ARE PLAIN EVEN BY CHINESE STANDARDS. WOODCOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING00837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780135-1170
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780313/aaaaakxz.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f6775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3169757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TIENTSIN REOPENED TO FOREIGNERS
TAGS: ECON, OTRA, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014